

County of Los Angeles

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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> **Board of Supervisors** GLORIA MOLINA

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First District

July 20, 2001

To:

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

Two bills to address Southern California Edison's financial problems, are being rushed through Committee hearings and may be taken up on the floor before the legislature breaks for recess. Both bills address the question of how to pay for the roughly \$3.5 billion of net "undercollections" that Edison owes to providers in ways that would disproportionately increase the County's cost for electricity in its larger facilities served by Edison. SB 78 2X(Polanco) would authorize Edison to issue \$2.5 billion in bonds that would be secured and paid for through a dedicated rate component paid only by Edison's largest customers, which include many County facilities. AB 82 2X (Keeley) would also authorize bonds up to the amount of the negotiated settlement with Edison (roughly \$2 billion) that would be secured and paid for by all Edison customers for 2 years and thereafter by only the largest customers. In effect, both bills would shift the burden of paying for power consumed by all users to one group of users that include some of the County's largest facilities which have already experienced rate increases and loss of discounts equivalent to a 75 percent rate increase. Consequently, consistent with Board policy to seek stable electricity prices, we will oppose SB 78 2X and AB 82 2X unless they are amended to either apply the dedicated rate component uniformly to all customers or to exempt public facilities. A third Edison bill - AB 50 2X (Campbell-Wright)- is also under consideration. It would have all customers share the burden of a bailout.



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We will keep you advised.

DEJ:GK JR:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Local 660
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
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